

# BUILDING-STRUCTURE INVENTORY FORM

NYS OFFICE OF PARKS, RECREATION  
& HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
DIVISION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
(518)237-8643

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

UNIQUE SITE NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
QUAD. \_\_\_\_\_  
SERIES \_\_\_\_\_  
NEG.NO. \_\_\_\_\_

YOUR NAME: Kathy Howe DATE: Sept. 1994

YOUR ADDRESS: 133 South Fitzhugh Street TELEPHONE: (716)546-7029  
Rochester, NY 14608

ORGANIZATION (if any): The Landmark Society of Western New York, Inc.

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## IDENTIFICATION

1. BUILDING NAME(S): Joseph Fleming House
2. COUNTY: Monroe TOWN: Greece
3. STREET LOCATION: 981 Latta Road
4. OWNERSHIP: a. public ☐ b. private ☒
5. PRESENT OWNER: Joseph E. Fleming ADDRESS: P.O. Box 4754  
Rochester, NY 14612
6. USE: Original: residence/farm Present: residence
7. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: Yes ☒ No ☐  
Interior accessible: Explain private residence

## DESCRIPTION

8. BUILDING MATERIAL: a. clapboard ☐ b. stone ☒ (fdn., sills, lintels) c. brick ☒  
d. board and batten ☐ e. cobblestone ☐ f. shingles ☐ g. stucco ☐  
other: asphalt roof shingles
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM: (if known) a. wood frame with interlocking joints ☐  
b. wood frame with light members ☐  
c. masonry load bearing walls ☒  
d. metal (explain) \_\_\_\_\_  
e. other \_\_\_\_\_
10. CONDITION: a. excellent ☒ b. good ☐ c. fair ☐ d. deteriorated ☐
11. INTEGRITY: a. original site ☒ b. moved ☐ if so, when? \_\_\_\_\_  
c. list major alterations and dates (if known): \_\_\_\_\_

(see continuation sheet)

12. PHOTO:

13. MAP:

"This is another lovely Italianate house. This would be a 'red'. It also has a barn with it. " P.Malo.

COLOR CODE

Red





14. THREATS TO BUILDING:

- a. none known ☒                      b. zoning ☐                      c. roads ☐  
d. developers ☐                      e. deterioration ☐  
f. other: \_\_\_\_\_

15. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS AND PROPERTY:

- a. barn ☒                      b. carriage house ☐                      c. garage ☒ (2)  
d. privy ☐                      e. shed ☒                      f. greenhouse ☐  
g. shop ☐                      h. gardens ☐  
i. landscape features: \_\_\_\_\_  
j. other: \_\_\_\_\_

16. SURROUNDINGS OF THE BUILDING (check more than one if necessary):

- a. open land ☒                      b. woodland ☐  
c. scattered buildings ☒  
d. densely built-up ☒ (neighborhood)                      e. commercial ☐  
f. industrial ☐                      g. residential ☒  
h. other: \_\_\_\_\_

17. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS:

(Indicate if building or structure is in an historic district)

(see continuation sheet)

18. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING AND SITE (including interior features if known):

(see continuation sheet)

SIGNIFICANCE

19. DATE OF INITIAL CONSTRUCTION: c. 1854

ARCHITECT: not determined

BUILDER: Probably Joseph Fleming, original owner.

20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:

(see continuation sheet)

21. SOURCES:

(see continuation sheet)

22. THEME: Agricultural: Farmhouse and outbuildings.

11c.

One-story, gable-roofed, frame addition at rear (ca. 1950?).

Porch removed on front of west wing.

Concrete block garage built 1956.

Frame garage built ca. 1950-60.

A barn on this property was demolished in 1960.

17. The Joseph Fleming House is located on the south side of Latta Road on a 10.4 acre lot in the northeast quadrant of the town. The house has a deep setback from the road. The front elevation faces north. A driveway is east of the house and leads to two non-contributing, post World War II garages; one is concrete block, the other is frame. Located southwest of the house is a contributing gambrel-roofed frame barn with a lower, gable-roofed east wing. East of the barn is a contributing one-story, gable-roofed, frame shed. The barnyard is partially enclosed by a stockade fence on the east and north sides. Beyond the lawn area are fields on the east, west and south sides. The property has many mature trees including a row of trees on the east side of the driveway. The rural feeling associated with this farmhouse is partially intact. The surrounding neighborhood is composed primarily of post World War II residences.

18. The Joseph Fleming House consists of a two-story, hipped roof, main block with one and one-half story, hipped roof east and west wings, and a one story, gable-roofed rear wing. This Italianate style house is of brick construction with a coursed ashlar foundation of reddish-colored stone and a stone watertable. Fenestration is generally repetitive and symmetrical with six-over-six, double-hung wood windows, stone sills and lintels, and wooden shutters. A brick chimney rises above the roof at the west end of the main block. Each of the wings has a brick chimney at the center of their roofs.

The main block is square in plan with wide, overhanging eaves, typical of the Italianate style. The front, north, elevation of the main block is three bays wide with a hipped roof entrance porch in the east bay. This porch has chamfered, wood posts.

18. continued

The door at this entrance has two recessed wood panels below with two rectangular glazed units in the upper half. The first floor

windows of the main block are tall, six-over-six, double-hung wood sash. The hipped roof of the main block is crowned by a widow's walk with a fanciful balustrade and pointed finials above each corner pedestal.

The east and west wings are both three bays wide at the first floor. A full-width, one-story, hipped roof porch projects from the front of the east wing. This porch has chamfered posts matching those found at the porch of the main block. An entrance is located in the center bay this wing with six-over-six, double-hung sash on either side. This door is wood paneled with glazing in the upper half. The flooring on this porch is brick. Above the porch are two rectangular, frieze-type window openings.

The west wing has an entrance at the front in the east bay with two six-over-six, double-hung windows to the west. On the upper floor are two rectangular, frieze-type window openings with three lights in each. A few courses of brick below these windows is a horizontal line nearly the full-width of this elevation which may indicate that this wing once had a porch similar to the east wing.

Projecting from the rear, south, elevation of the main block and east wing is a small, one-story, gable-roofed brick south wing with a frame addition (post World War II?). The windows in this section of the house are modern and include a large picture window and casement windows. A side entrance is located on the east elevation of the frame addition.

Located behind the house to the south are two non-contributing, post World War II garages. The largest of the two is a side-gabled, concrete block structure with three overhead garage doors. The other one is a front-gabled, frame structure sided with aluminum.

18. continued

Adding to the significance of the property is a large gambrel-roofed, bank barn most likely dating from the late-nineteenth or early-twentieth century. The barn has vertical tongue and groove siding with sliding track doors on the east and west sides. A lower, gable-roofed frame wing projects from the east side of the barn. A contributing, one-story, gable-roofed, frame shed is located east of the barn. (A more detailed description of this shed was not possible since the view of it was largely hidden by the stockade fence and trees.)

20. The Joseph Fleming House, built ca. 1854, is architecturally significant as an intact vernacular interpretation of Italianate style domestic architecture. The farmstead is historically significant as a visual reminder of Greece's agricultural heritage. It is also historically important for its association with one of Greece's pioneer families, the Flemings.

The symmetrically balanced composition of this house, with a central block and lower side wings, is atypical for the Italianate style. Symmetrical massing is more commonly associated with the earlier Greek Revival style. Nevertheless, the cubic massing of the main block, the low-pitched, hipped roof with wide, overhanging eaves, and porches with chamfered square posts are characteristic of the Italianate.

The Italianate style belongs to the picturesque movement in architecture during the second half of the nineteenth century. The style was loosely inspired by the rural architecture of northern Italy. The architectural pattern books of Andrew Jackson Downing of the 1840s and '50s helped to popularize the style.

The two contributing agricultural outbuildings add to the significance of this farmstead. The large gambrel-roofed barn is an important agricultural support structure. Gambrel-roofed barns had become the dominant type on most farms by the late-nineteenth century. The gambrel roof provided greater storage space and could accommodate larger hay crops and farm machinery.

20. continued

Agricultural structures are quickly vanishing from the town's landscape, victims of new development, deterioration, abandonment, or fire. Those agricultural complexes which have survived, such as at the Joseph Fleming Farm, are rare and thus highly significant historic resources. The farmhouse along with its agricultural support structures is an important visual reminder of the town's agricultural heritage.

The house was probably built by its original owner, Joseph Fleming, who was a skilled mason. Fleming was born in King's County, Ireland, in 1812, and came to New York in 1837. He came from a family of mechanics and builders. When he came to this country he applied his skills by working on several public works projects. He was in charge of cutting and laying the stone for the first Croton dam on the New York water works. In 1842 he went to Canada where he superintended the construction of a large ship lock and an aqueduct. He was also in charge of the cut stone for the first suspension bridge over the Niagara River at the falls in 1848. He later returned to the United States and had several contracts working on the enlargement of the Genesee Valley and Erie Canals.

In 1854 Fleming purchased a farm of 140 acres on Latta Road, which he enlarged to about 300 acres by the purchase of adjoining farms. He improved this farm by clearing land, adding new buildings, grading, draining, and building a trout and ice pond.

Joseph Fleming and Peter Larkin superintended the construction of Mother of Sorrows Church (present Paddy Hill Library) built in 1859-60 at Mt. Read Boulevard and Latta Road. Fleming was also a trustee of the church. Fleming served as Road Commissioner for the town of Greece in 1895.

Joseph Fleming married Elizabeth Rigney in 1845. They had six children who reached maturity: Martin F. and Edward M., who became physicians in New York City, James, Catherine, Margaret, and Joseph P. Joseph P. Fleming continued to run the farm after his father's death. The house appears on the 1858 and 1872 county maps with the name J. Fleming. The 1902 county map shows the house on 94 acres, part of lot 15, owned by Joseph Fleming. This map also shows that Fleming owned an additional 73 acres across the street to the northeast. The 1924 map shows Joseph

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20. continued

P. Fleming as the owner of 47 and 90 acre parcels on the south side of Latta Road with two houses and three outbuildings. The 1930 suburban directory lists Joseph E. Fleming, farmer, and Joseph P. Fleming, farmer, and his wife, Rose A., as the owners. The house remains in the ownership of the Fleming family to the present day, now owned by Joseph E. Fleming.

21.

Assessment Records. Assessment Office, Town of Greece, NY.

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Brown, P.J. *Gillette's Map of Monroe County, New York*. Philadelphia: Gillette, 1858.

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Husted, Shirley Cox and Virginia Tomkiewicz. *Eight Miles Along The Shore....An Illustrated History of Greece, New York*. Greece, NY: The Historical Society of Greece, NY, 1982.

*Map of Monroe County, N.Y.* Philadelphia. PA: G.M. Hopkins, 1924.

Peck, William F. *Landmarks of Monroe County, New York*. Boston, MA: The Boston History Company, Publishers, 1895.

*Plat Book of Monroe County, New York*. Philadelphia, PA: J.M. Lathrop & Co., 1902.

*Rochester Suburban Directory of the Year 1930*. Rochester, NY: Sampson & Murdock Co., 1930.

*Rochester Suburban Directory for the Year 1938*. Rochester, NY: Sampson & Murdock Co., 1937.

Town of Greece Historian's Office. Vertical Files. Greece, NY.









